News Release
Communiqué

Ontario

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée

For Immediate Release
May 9, 2007
2007/nr-111

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW PROVINCIAL CHIEF NURSING OFFICER

Vanessa Burkoski Brings Two Decades Of Experience To Role

TORONTO – Vanessa Burkoski has been appointed as Ontario's Provincial Chief Nursing Officer, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

"We are excited to have Vanessa Burkoski on board as our new Provincial Chief Nursing Officer," said Smitherman. "Vanessa brings a wealth of nursing experience, clinical knowledge, and impressive educational achievements to this challenging and vital role."

The Provincial Chief Nursing Officer (PCNO) provides strategic advice on health and public policy issues from a nursing perspective. The PCNO also participates in several nursing committees and working groups that encourage teamwork to deal with important issues relating to the nursing profession.

"For me, this is a dream come true," said Burkoski. "It is a privilege and an honour to contribute to the nursing profession and health care in Ontario."

Burkoski has a solid background of administrative, educational and clinical leadership. Her most recent role was a health care organizational consultant surveyor for the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. Burkoski was also the director of emergency and critical care services at the Windsor Regional Hospital. In addition to her nursing and consultative experience, Burkoski was a theoretical and clinical instructor in nursing at the University of Windsor and she is now completing her Doctorate in Health Administration.

"The PCNO position is truly one of the most important roles in government and we are fortunate to have found an individual with the depth of experience and obvious commitment to nursing that Vanessa Burkoski brings," said Joshua Tepper, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health Human Resources at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. "We look forward to working together to help advance a nursing agenda that will benefit nurses and patients in the health care system."

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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Media Contacts:

David Spencer
Minister's Office
416-327-4320

David Jensen
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
416-314-6197

Members of the general public: 1-866-532-3161

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